

About the Commission

Tuesday, 03 January 2006

We work with conservation districts to help citizens protect renewable resources through the use of proven, incentive-based practices.

What we do for natural resources

The Washington State Conservation Commission assists and guides conservation districts as they work with local communities to conserve renewable natural resources.

Together, we fill a unique niche in the conservation arena by providing leadership, technical resources and money to help private landowners protect public resources.

With many others, we save salmon

Many local, state and federal agencies are working to save salmon. Unlike most others, conservation districts and the Conservation Commission work directly with private landowners who have direct control over management activities on their lands. Several of our grant programs have goals related to the conservation of salmon.

We help assure fishable, swimmable water

Conservation districts focus on providing voluntary, incentive-based conservation assistance on private lands. By providing support to conservation districts, we help reduce pollution coming from many small sources. Conservation districts have provided technical and financial assistance to landowners on clean water issues for decades. We facilitate relationships between regulators and private citizens, for the purpose of conserving Washington State's precious natural resources.

We help keep land productive

We believe lands managed for sustainable, profitable production of food and crops is a better choice than lands left to become filled with noxious weeds or converted to polluting activities. Most of our programs are designed to help private land managers do a better job of protecting natural resources as they make a living from their land.

Who is the Conservation Commission?

The Washington State Conservation Commission is a small state agency created to assist and guide conservation districts as they work to conserve our natural resources. Our mission is to lead the citizens of the state in the wise stewardship, conservation, and protection of soil, water, and related natural resources on private lands.

We help conservation districts coordinate programs, facilitate productive working relationships with other organizations, and help districts be successful. The Conservation Commission also provides grant funds to conservation districts, maintains accounting procedures in cooperation with the State Auditor's Office, oversees conservation district elections, and appoints two board members to each local conservation district board. Read more about our core functions.

Who sits on the Commission board?

Governance of the agency is provided by a ten-member board with members drawn from conservation districts, other agencies and Governor appointees. Our board members hail from across Washington State and include people with experience in ranching, farming, law, management, public service, natural resource management, and more.

Four members are elected by Washington State conservation districts. Four members are appointed to represent state agencies. Two members are appointed by the Governor.

Who executes the policies and plans of the governing board?

Staff

members carry out the direction of the Commission board. Our headquarters office is in Lacey, and to better serve conservation districts, we maintain small satellite offices in several locations across the state.

The Conservation Commission board employs an executive director to implement the board's policies and plans. The executive director employs staff who manage agency financial programs, provide direct service to conservation districts, and perform the wide range of other functions needed to fully implement the WSCC Strategic Plan for 2009-2015.

To better serve conservation district needs, we have agency staff located in several communities around the State of Washington, including: Longview, Okanogan, Olympia, Spokane, and Yakima.

Programs in the Conservation Commission

The Washington State Conservation Commission provides a number of programs to help put conservation on the ground. We think of program participants as conservation V.I.P.s, because these individuals implement Voluntary, Incentive-based, Private landowner actions! Read more about our programs.

Contact the Conservation Commission